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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **WATANABE, Takayuki et al.**

Group Art Unit: **2822**

Serial No.: **10/073,877**

Examiner: **M. F. GUERRERO**

Filed: **February 14, 2002**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: **6745**

For: **PROCESS OF MANUFACTURING A SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE**

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT
DATED FEBRUARY 23, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 17, 2004

Sir:

In response to the Requirement for an Election of Species dated **February 23, 2004**, Applicant's provisionally elect to prosecute Species I directed to a single etching step without protecting pattern.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 2-5, 7-10, 12, 17-22, 24 and 25 read on Species I, because these claims are all directed to etching without a pattern. Specifically, claims 2-5, 9-10, and 17-22 are directed to a single etching step without protecting pattern. Claims 7-8, 12 and 24-25, are directed to two etching steps without protecting pattern. Applicant's reserve the right to file divisional applications on the non-elected claims.

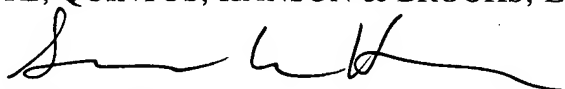
Early examination of elected claims 2-5, 7-10, 12, 17-22, 24 and 25 and a favorable action on the merits, is respectfully requested. Should any questions arise, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at her Washington, D.C., telephone number.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for any such extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

In the event any additional fees are required in connection with this response, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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